(a) whether India exports natural gas to some of the countries;

(b) if so, the details of such countries alongwith the details of the companies which are exporting the same;

(c) the details of the gas exported during the last three years, company-wise and country-wise; and

(d) the total foreign exchange earned by the export of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No export of natural gas is made from India.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

LNG supply to fertilizer companies

1674.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer companies like Indian Farmer Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd.(IFFCO) are buying Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from shell at $ 25/MMBTU;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these fertilizer companies are capable to afford such high price for LNG; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Government to regulate these prices of LNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) According to the information available from the Company, no gas at ex-terminal price of US $ 25/mmbtu has been sold to IFFCO or any other fertilizer Company by Hazira LNG Pvt. Ltd.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

(d) LNG is being imported through term-contracts, as also through spot market. Under term contracts, agreement entered into between the buyer and the seller is for a specified period. Price of the same is as per mutually agreed pricing formula. However, price of LNG purchased from spot market depends on the prevailing market conditions.

Government took the decision that the price of Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) procured under term contracts should be non-discriminatory and that a uniform pooled price should be charged from existing and new consumers; accordingly, this Ministry issued orders on March 6, 2007. RLNG procured under term contracts is being supplied on a pooled price basis *w.e.f.* August 29, 2007. The spot LNG procured from the spot market has been kept out of the purview of the above mentioned directive, as there are wide fluctuations and great uncertainty in the price of LNG procured from the spot market.

Out of the total 8.32 million metric tonne (mmt) LNG imported in the country during 2007-08, 5.8 mmt LNG was imported through term contracts, whereas the remaining 2.52 mmt LNG was imported through spot market.